

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-29 are pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled, and claims 1, 3 and 13 have been amended by this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment incorporates the subject matter of dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1. Claim 2 has been cancelled and the dependency of claim 3 has been corrected accordingly. Claim 13 has also been amended to be dependent on claim 1 instead of independent.

Applicant's gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that he will act on their Request for Clarification/Complete Office Action. This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment does not affect the Request.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (912.39939X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to read as follows:

1. Apparatus for unloading containers for rod-like articles, comprising:
a carrier for receiving a full container in a receiving position in a first orientation; and
means for moving the carrier to an unloading position at which the carrier is in a second orientation, the moving means including means including means for translating the carrier and means for rotating the carrier, wherein the translating means and rotating means are independently controlled.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the translating means moves the carrier along a substantially linear path.
13. Apparatus for unloading containers of rod-like articles as claimed in claim 1, said comprising means for delivering moving the carrier a container to an unloading position being configured such that said at which articles are unloaded through an open end of said the container, and further comprising means for conveying unloaded articles away from the unloading position along a path, wherein the conveying means extends substantially across said open end at said unloading position except at said path.